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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord of salvation, Father of all, may the good news of Baghdad spread throughout the region of Iraq. Bind the wounds of a war-torn people as You lift the cloud of oppression and ignite the promise of a new day.

When the Iraqi people gather in their mosques and churches tomorrow and this weekend, may they find new reasons to offer You praise and thanks so that peace may descend upon their land and their families.

Lord, continue to protect and guide the coalition forces, that they may be transformed by Your power for building security and becoming witnesses to true freedom under the law.

Grant them perseverance and patience until their task is completed and they safely return home.

May all prisoners of war and all those still missing be found and be brought to light and reliable care.

To You, our God and Savior, do the Members of Congress and the Nation give the glory, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 273. An act to provide for the eradication and control of nutria in Maryland and Louisiana.

The message was announced that the Senate has passed concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution expressing the outrage of Congress at the treatment of certain American prisoners of war by the Government of Iraq.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. There will be 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

TEN COMMANDMENTS AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, since March of last year, a shroud has covered a plaque on the front of the Chester County Courthouse in my District. By court order, a work crew placed a piece of sheet metal over the plaque which has hung on the wall of the courthouse for nearly a century. This week, the Federal 3rd Circuit Court heard arguments about the future of this plaque.

Mr. Speaker, something is very wrong with our courts in this country. They say that child pornography is perfectly legal as long as real kids were not hurt making it, but the Ten Commandments are so offensive we have to cover them up. I am not exaggerating.

Mr. Speaker, something is very, very wrong with America's court system when child pornography is protected, but the Ten Commandments have to be covered up.

The 3rd Circuit Court should do the right thing. They should allow the plaque to stay right where it is.

IN GRATITUDE FOR THE SACRIFICE OF EDWARD SMITH

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen American hero. Edward Smith spent his adult life protecting his fellow citizens, first as a Marine and then as a reserve SWAT police officer in the Anaheim Police Department.

In January, he submitted his application to retire from the Marine Corps to become a full-time policeman in Anaheim when the Secretary of the Navy froze all retirements for Marines for 12 months. On January 31, he and his unit, the 2nd Tank Battalion of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Unit set off for the Iraqi theater.

Edward Smith and his company of 200 Marines were involved in a fierce firefight in Basra where he was killed in the line of duty.

I am sure my colleagues all join me in paying tribute to Smitty, as he was known by his friends and comrades-in-arms, and to express our condolences and our gratitude to his wife, Sandy, and his children, Nathan, Ryan and Shelby.

BAGHDAD FALLS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to congratulate General Tommy Franks, Chief of Military Operations, and our brave military forces. Of course, I also congratulate Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, General Myers, and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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